Central and the State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks and relaxation in the prescribed maximum age limits and educational qualifications for appointment. The State Government of Kerala has exclusively reserved vacancies for ex-Servicemen in National Cadet Cops (NCC) and Sainik Welfare Departments. A variety of training programmes are conducted for ex-Servicemen to improve their employment potential. Several schemes are also in operation to provide assistance to the ex-Servicemen in self-employment ventures.

Port Facilities

5644. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Government to develop additional facilities to meet the demand of increasing exports by various ports in the country;

(b) names of ports where additional facilities have been developed and work commenced; and

(c) the items for which such additional port facilities have been created ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN)) : (a) During 9th Plan (1997–2002), an outlay of Rs. 8011 crores has been proposed for development of port facilities to meet the growth of import/ export traffic in the country.

(b) and (c) During the 8th plan (1992-97) additional facilities have been created at various major ports for handling various commodities like, containers at Calcutta and Cochin, *POL at Cochin and general cargo at Mormugao, Paradip, New Mangalore, Visakhapatnam and Haldia.

*Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants.

[Translation]

Test Fire of Arjun and Prithvi Missiles

5645. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the Arjun and Prithvi Missiles were test fired during the last three years;

(b) whether any pressure has been put on the Government to stop launching of these missiles;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government intend to continue the test firing of the above missiles irrespective such pressure tactics ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) ARJUN is a main battle tank. After extensive user trials, ARJUN has been accepted by the Army and it has entered production phase.

Seven flight trials of PRITHVI missile have been undertaken during last three years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Developmental and user's trials of 150 km. version of PRITHVI missile have already been completed.

Further, developmental flight tests for the 250 km. version for the Air Force have also been completed and its user trials will be carried out shortly.

[English]

Derecognition of Degree

5646. SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI LAL BABU PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Medical Council of India has recommended that degrees from Medical institutions in the erstwhile USSR be derecognised after 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether fresh inspection of Medical institutions in the former USSR is necessary because of their autonomy after breaking of USSR in 1990;

(d) the number of Indians likely to be affected due to this decision; and

(e) the steps taken to review this decision ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The General Body of Medical Council of India (M.C.I.) at its meeting held on 25-8-1994

considerded the changed status of institutions in former USSR and the criteria being followed for importing medical education and intership to students and recommended to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to extend the recognition of Medical qualification, "M.D. Physician" granted by 29 institutions of the erstwhile USSR upto 31-12-1997.

(c) The M.C.I. has also recommended that fresh inspection of all the Medical institutions which have gained autonomy status be carried out to consider fresh recognition of the said institution.

(d) and (e) Notification limiting recognition of "M.D. (Physician)" degree granted by 29 institutions in former USSR has not yet been issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as per the provisions of Section 13 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

Desert Development Programme

5647. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Shelter-belt Plantation and Road Side Plantation were executed in Rajasthan under Desert Development Programme during last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CAZRI, Jodhpur has established that Road Side Plantation and Shelter-belt Plantation are useful in technical point of view and in desert areas due to execution of these works, spread of sand dunes towards main roads has also been checked;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government to reconsider such works and has sent proposals for Shelter-belt Plantation under Desert Development Programme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Shelter-belt Plantation and Road side plantation were taken up in Rajasthan as part of Core Sector activity of "Afforestation and Pasture Development" under Desert Development Programme.

(c) and (d) CAZRI, Jodhpur has recommended Road side Plantation and Shelterbelt Plantation as useful techniques for cheking the spread of sand dunes.

(e) and (f) Shelter-belt Plantation and Road side Plantation are already permitted as an integral component of Watershed Project under the new Guidelines for Watershed Development for implementing Desert Development Programme. However, the Government of Rajasthan's proposal to allow these activities outside Watershed Project Area was not agreed to by the Ministry.

Diversion of Flood Water

5648. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study was conducted to explore the possibilities to devert flood waters of Ganga to Rajasthan, in a time bound manner;

(b) whether the said study has been completed;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A study was conducted by Central Water Commission to explore the possibilities to divert flood waters of Ganga near Haridwar and Bijnore for use in Rajasthan. The study revealed that sufficient water was not available in Ganga near these two places for more than 20-30 days in a year for diversion to Rajasthan. It was concluded that running the proposed large size diversion canals, more than 100 km. in length, for such a short period will result in damages and their maintenance was likely to be very expensive thereby making the proposal highly uneconomical.

(d) On further request from Rajasthan, Central Water Commission has requested Government of Uttar Pradesh to furnish some more data to review the study.

Pension Cases of Civilian Defence Personnel

5649. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some pension cases of some civilian defence personnel are pending with the Ministry since long;

(b) if so, details and resons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for early disposal of such cases; and

(d) the time by which these cases are likely to be disposed of ?